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United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits to the General Assembly the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the activities of the Institute for the period from August 2002 to July 2003 and the proposed programme of work and estimated budget for the biennium 2003-2004.

The report was considered and approved for submission to the General Assembly by the Board of Trustees of the Institute at the forty-first session of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, held from 16 to 18 July 2003.

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Report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the activities of the Institute for the period from August 2002 to July 2003 and the proposed programme of work and budget of the Institute for the biennium 2003-2004

Summary

The General Assembly issued a standing request in 1984 for the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to report to the Assembly on the activities of the Institute on a yearly basis. To that end, the Director prepared the present report covering the activities of the Institute during the period from August 2002 to July 2003 for the consideration of the Board of Trustees of the Institute at the forty-first session of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, held from 16 to 18 July 2003.

The Director reports that the work programme of the Institute continued to be centred on three main areas: global security and disarmament; regional security and disarmament; and human security and disarmament, addressing the full range of substantive disarmament issues from small arms to weapons in space.

The subvention from the United Nations regular budget is the guarantee of the Institute's independence. By means of the present report, the Board of Trustees transmits to the Secretary-General a recommendation for a subvention for the Institute from the regular budget for the year 2004. The Director also reports on the status of the voluntary funds from Governments and philanthropic foundations.

I. Introduction

1. The present report informs the Board of Trustees of the activities of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) during the period from August 2002 to July 2003 and the planned programme for 2004 and beyond.

II. Management and staffing

2. The work of United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research is carried out with a dedicated, small staff: a director, a deputy director, an administrative assistant, a specialized secretary for publications, a computer systems manager, a research programmes manager and conference organizer, a fellowship and internship coordinator, editors for the journal and for reports and books, and project researchers. Currently, the number of staff is growing, and core staff members are on one-year renewable contracts. A stronger core staff is being developed to reinforce the Institute's research programme. All attempts are being made to increase the Institute's core and project income so that staff numbers can be increased and contracts improved. In 2002, UNIDIR continued its new fellowship programme and increased the number of research interns, thus substantially increasing the number of researchers. Over the last year UNIDIR had 21 staff members, of whom 2 were directing staff, 3 were support staff (administrative and technical), 5 were core substantive programme staff, 4 were project managers/directors and 7 were research fellows. In addition, during the past year UNIDIR has hosted 35 research interns from 18 countries.

3. Following the improvement and regrading of UNIDIR contracts, the Institute has, from the beginning of 2002, continued to implement a salary structure based on United Nations Professional and General Service grades. This is a step on the way to more fully integrating UNIDIR administrative and personnel structures with those of the United Nations central administration.

4. UNIDIR holds weekly staff meetings, monthly research meetings and biannual strategic planning meetings. Equality of opportunity, skills training and staff appraisal are high on the management agenda. Recent training included courses on language, negotiation and conflict resolution, management systems and computer software.

III. Subvention from the United Nations regular budget

5. A subvention, used to cover the costs of the Director and administration, is necessary for the forthcoming biennium. The subvention is important not only economically, but also to ensure the independence of the Institute. With the strong and continuing support of the UNIDIR Board of Trustees, tireless efforts by the Director and the capable assistance provided by the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, in particular the personal support received from the Under-Secretary-General of the Department, the subvention has been cost adjusted to take account of inflation and other cost increases. In the biennium 1996-1997, the subvention was reduced from $220,000 to $213,000, and remained at $213,000 until 2001. For the biennium 2002-2003, the total appropriation approved by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session was $447,100. Therefore, the

UNIDIR subvention in 2003 was $227,600. The first increase for cost adjustments since the establishment of UNIDIR occurred in 2002.

6. In view of the importance of the United Nations subvention, support for its increase and continuing cost adjustment are needed as part of the effort to ensure the independence of UNIDIR and to facilitate growth in voluntary income. The welcome cost adjustment for the present biennium needs to be applied in future bienniums, and efforts to ensure that it is increased to an adequate level should be undertaken with sustained vigour.

IV. Recent and planned activities

7. The Institute's research programme comprises three sections: global security and disarmament, regional security and disarmament, and human security and disarmament.

A. Global security and disarmament

8. Much of the focus of the Institute's work is on global security and disarmament. This includes research on the implementation of agreed treaties and on issues relevant to current negotiations.

1. Conference on Disarmament

9. Despite, perhaps because of, the impasse that continues in the Conference on Disarmament, UNIDIR has been actively involved in a range of consultations on the issues pertaining to the work of the Conference. UNIDIR has been involved in informal discussions on reform of the Conference process, the participation of civil society, fissile materials, nuclear disarmament, terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, security assurances and outer space issues.

10. In November 2002, UNIDIR, Project Ploughshares and the Simons Foundation held a meeting on outer space and global security in order to contribute to the work of the Conference on Disarmament. In December 2002, UNIDIR, the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt and the Government of Germany held a meeting on international cooperation in combating nuclear terrorism and the role of nuclear arms control. In March 2003, UNIDIR and the Governments of Japan and Australia co-hosted a meeting on promoting verification in multilateral arms control treaties. The meeting was attended by Conference delegations and international experts.

11. In order to highlight the disarmament work in Geneva, the Institute's Director is writing a regular column in *Disarmament Times*. The political realities of the Conference on Disarmament are explained in detail with the aim of achieving a wider understanding of the complexities of negotiations in Geneva.

2. Nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament

12. Following the successful negotiation of the African Nuclear Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba), an effort to obtain all the 28 ratifications required for its entry into force is under way. As part of that effort, UNIDIR has published an account of the treaty negotiations by Oluyemi Adeniji, who chaired the

African Union/United Nations group of experts, which was charged with examining the modalities and elements for the preparation and implementation of the Treaty. A seminar to launch the book was held in May 2003 with Mr. Adeniji and Mr. S. A. Kalinde of the African Union.

13. *Tactical Nuclear Weapons: Time for Control*, edited by Taina Susiluoto, was published in September 2002. The book contains a statement by former President Mikhail Gorbachev and writing by experts on the issue, with an attempt to focus international attention on the lack of a legal instrument for controlling tactical nuclear weapons. Further work on tactical nuclear weapons will focus on new nuclear weapons that may be under development.

14. The second issue of *Disarmament Forum* in 2003 was dedicated to the issue of nuclear terrorism and includes: "Special comment", by Rüdiger Lüdeking; "Nuclear terrorism: risk analysis after 11 September 2001", by Annette Schaper; "The contribution of arms control to fighting nuclear terrorism", by Bin Li and Zhiwei Liu; "Commercial radioactive sources: surveying the security risks", by Charles D. Ferguson, Tahseen Kazi and Judith Perera; "The implications of 11 September for the nuclear industry", by John H. Large; "FM(C)T benefits and burdens: today's needs, tomorrow's opportunities", by Thomas E. Shea; and "Some reflections on transparency in the contemporary security environment", by William Walker.

3. Missiles and missile defences

15. In recent years, UNIDIR has been building up its research effort on the topic of missiles and missile defences.

16. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/33 A of 20 November 2000, the Secretary-General appointed a group of governmental experts to prepare a report on the issue of missiles in all its aspects for the consideration of the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session. UNIDIR was appointed to assist the group, and its Deputy Director, Christophe Carle, and consultant Waheguru Pal Singh Sidhu took on the role of consultants during the period from July 2001 to July 2002. Both consultants will publish papers on the issue of missiles and missile proliferation.

17. A conference entitled "What prospects for missile control?" was hosted by UNIDIR and the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI) in Paris in March 2003. It took stock of recent and ongoing attempts to address the arms control and disarmament challenges posed by missiles and considered the next steps for various current initiatives.

18. In June, UNIDIR, with the Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Monterey Institute of International Studies; the Mountbatten Centre for International Studies at the University of Southampton; and the Simons Centre for Peace and Disarmament Studies held a meeting at Winston House, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on missile proliferation, missile defences and space security: confronting and addressing new challenges. The conference specifically looked at the linkages between space weaponization, missile proliferation and missile defences.

4. Biological and chemical weapons

19. As part of the Institute's efforts under the Geneva Forum, Jenni Rissanen, Ditta Ciganikova and Oliver Meier, along with a number of civil society organizations and

academics, established the Bioweapons Prevention Project, which aims to strengthen the norm against the use of disease as a weapon. The Project works to reduce the threat of bioweapons by monitoring and reporting governmental and other activities that are pertinent to compliance with relevant treaties. The Project is now an independent body based in Geneva and headed by Jean-Pascal Zanders.

20. A number of meetings under the Geneva Forum umbrella were held on the issue of biological weapons. A seminar entitled "The future of biological disarmament" was held in July 2002 as the second in a series of seminars to stimulate creative thinking in preparation for the resumed session of the fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention). In September 2002, the Geneva Forum held a two-day residential workshop on strengthening the implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention: the fifth Review Conference and beyond. A meeting entitled "the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention work programme (2003-2005): what does it mean and what can it achieve?" was held in July 2003.

21. In cooperation with the Centre for Conflict Resolution in Cape Town, South Africa, UNIDIR published *Project Coast: Apartheid's Chemical and Biological Warfare Programme* by Chandre Gould and Peter Folb. Lessons for the control of chemical and biological agents and particularly concerning their use by non-State actors are drawn for future reference.

22. In its last issue of 2002, the Institute's journal, *Disarmament Forum*, focused on the first Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (Convention on Chemical Weapons) held at The Hague in 2003. The Review Conference included the following papers: "The first CWC Review Conference: taking stock and paving the way ahead" by Alexander Kelle; "Evaluating the CWC verification system" by Daniel Feakes; "The Chemical Weapons Convention and universality: a question of quality over quantity?" by Jean-Pascal Zanders; "Scientific and technological change and the future of the CWC: the problem of non-lethal weapons" by Malcom Dando; and "Organizational culture of the OPCW Secretariat" by Mauritzio Barbeschi.

23. UNIDIR is now developing a fellowship programme to host research fellows from the biotechnology industry at UNIDIR so that they will learn about the complexity and importance of controls on biotechnology in the prevention of bioweapons.

5. Space technologies

24. In collaboration with Project Ploughshares and the Simons Foundation, UNIDIR held a meeting in November 2002 on outer space and global security and is publishing a report on the conference. In May 2003, UNIDIR, Project Ploughshares and the Acronym Institute followed up the seminar with a round table on space weaponization and security, and in June 2003, UNIDIR and the Simons Centre held a further follow-up meeting with the Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies and the Mountbatten Centre for International Studies at the University of Southampton with a meeting at Winston

House on missile proliferation, missile defences and space security: confronting and addressing new challenges.

25. The first edition of *Disarmament Forum* in 2003 focused on the issue of space. *Making Space for Security* included "Special comment" by Col. Chris A. Hadfield; "'Peaceful uses' of outer space has permitted its militarization — does it also mean its weaponization?" by Johannes Wolff; "Monsters and shadows: left unchecked, American fears regarding threats to space assets will drive weaponization" by Theresa Hitchens; "The world's space systems" by Laurence Nardon; "Is a space weapons ban feasible? Thoughts on technology and verification of arms control in space" by Regina Hagen and Jürgen Scheffran; and "Security without weapons in space: challenges and options" by Rebecca Johnson.

6. Implementing treaties

26. Between 1999 and 2002, UNIDIR carried out a research project on the costs of implementing disarmament treaties. The project, headed by Susan Willett, studied the costs of dismantling weapons; implementation bodies; verification activities; and various meetings of States parties. The first two publications resulting from the project were published in 2002. Two further publications are scheduled for publication in 2003.

27. A second project studied the common problems of the international implementing bodies of the Convention on Chemical Weapons, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, respectively the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

28. In cooperation with the Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies, UNIDIR began a research programme in 2001-2002 to study the role of regional bodies in implementing global treaties. The research, headed by Lawrence Scheinman of the Monterey Institute, includes workshops, an international conference and a report on the modes and mechanisms of treaty implementation activities by regional organizations, with a view to assessing the value of devolving regional work to regional bodies. The first workshop took place in Geneva in June 2002. A second phase of the project is now being developed.

7. Security and disarmament thinking

29. The Institute's handbook of definitions of arms control, disarmament and security terms entitled *Coming to Terms with Security: A Lexicon for Arms Control, Disarmament and Confidence-Building* has now been translated into Arabic, Hungarian, Korean and Spanish. UNIDIR is keen to see it translated into other languages so as to facilitate better understanding and assist in education about disarmament issues, particularly in countries with little tradition of study in the field.

30. In collaboration with the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre, UNIDIR has published *Coming to Terms with Security: A Handbook on Verification and Compliance* in Arabic and English.

31. During the last decade, several attempts have been made to reformulate the disarmament and security agenda. UNIDIR operates two electronic discussion forums on its web site (http://www.unidir.org): *e-di@logue* and *for comment*, to pool the current and innovative thinking that is taking place on the issue of a new security agenda. Participation in the forums is global in scope.

32. A research project and seminar series (co-hosted with the Department for Disarmament Affairs) on disarmament as humanitarian action was established in 2000. The aim of the project is to reframe the disarmament debate in terms of humanitarianism and to mainstream disarmament into humanitarian action. Following a successful inaugural meeting, the Institute, the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue jointly held a third meeting in Geneva in November 2002, entitled "Disarmament, health and humanitarian action: putting people first". The purpose of the seminar was to develop cross-linkages, share knowledge and foster dialogue between the disarmament, humanitarian and health communities on issues relating to the effect on health of war and of the use of certain weapons, from a human security perspective.

33. Since its collaboration with the Department for Disarmament Affairs on the seminar on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security in August 1999, the Institute has been continuing research on this topic. New technological developments and the impacts on disarmament and security are also being researched for further consideration, and a meeting is being planned for December 2003 to coincide with the World Summit on the Information Society at the International Telecommunication Union in Geneva and the associated event on the role of science in the information society, hosted by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN).

B. Regional security and disarmament

34. Regional security has always been a priority in the Institute's research programme. In recent years, UNIDIR has focused on Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, North-East Asia, South Asia and Central Asia.

1. Peacekeeping

35. UNIDIR and IFRI co-published *The United Nations Security Council at the Dawn of the XXI Century: Is There the Will and the Capacity to Maintain International Peace and Security?/Le Conseil de sécurité à l'aube du XXIème siècle: quelle volonté et quelle capacité a-t-il de maintenir la paix et la sécurité internationales?* by Pascal Teixeira. The first edition of the book came out in French in 2002 and the second edition in English will be published in 2003.

2. UNIDIR regional security fellowship

36. Over the last two years, the Institute's fellowship programme focused on regional security. Eight fellows were brought from two regions to work collectively for six months in Geneva. The aim of the fellowship is to provide new ideas for security policy in regions of conflict. The two regions of focus so far have been South Asia and the Middle East. Over the next two years, UNIDIR plans to focus on the Middle East, West Africa and North-East Asia.

3. Latin America

37. UNIDIR is publishing a book on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation with a focus on the experience of Latin America. "Las políticas globales, regionales y nacionales ante los regímenes de desarme y no-proliferación de armas nucleares", by Marcelo F. Valle Fonrouge, will be published in 2003.

38. As part of the contribution to security in Latin America, UNIDIR and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in Lima embarked on a collaborative project to establish a database on small arms and light weapons issues.

4. Asia

39. UNIDIR published *Internal Conflict and Regional Security in South Asia: Approaches, Perspectives and Policies* by Shiva Hari Dahal, Haris Gazdar, Soosaipillai Keethaponcalan and Padmaja Murthy from the South Asian fellowship.

40. The Institute's Deputy Director, Christophe Carle, wrote a paper on security in South Asia, to be published in 2003 in the United Nations University's forthcoming volume on the United Nations and South Asia.

41. In August and September 2002, UNIDIR hosted two research fellows from the Disarmament and Peace Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Pyongyang.

42. With the five central Asian States in the final stages of negotiating an agreement on a central Asian nuclear-weapon-free zone, UNIDIR intends, at the appropriate time, to produce a study on the proposed zone, analysing its significance and its means of implementation.

43 Currently, UNIDIR is developing its research fellowship programme to encompass North-East Asia and to revisit South Asia. Funds are being sought for that endeavour.

5. Middle East

44. The Institute's lexicon of arms control, disarmament and security terms, *Coming to Terms with Security: a Lexicon for Arms Control, Disarmament and Confidence-Building*, has been translated into Arabic in an attempt to facilitate the arms control aspects of the Middle East peace process. The book, originally published in 2001, will be published in 2003 as a back-to-back English/Arabic volume and is intended for use by practitioners in the Middle East and as a training tool for young scholars and diplomats. The follow-up book, *Coming to Terms with Security: A Handbook on Verification and Compliance*, aimed at the same audience and also in English and Arabic, was published in June 2003.

45. In 2002, the Institute's regional fellowship programme focused on the Middle East. Four fellows from four countries in the Middle East worked on a single paper entitled "The roles of civil society and Government in building trust and confidence among the Israeli and Palestinian peoples: ideas for future policy". The fellows were Adel Atieh (Palestinian), Gilad Ben-Nun (Israeli), Gasser El Shahed (Egyptian) and Rana Taha (Jordanian). Following on the success of the fellowship, UNIDIR is developing a continuation of the Middle East fellowship programme and funds are currently being sought.

46. Since the fellowship ended in July 2002, two of the fellows have put the ideas generated at UNIDIR into practice on the ground. Working with the War-torn Societies Project International, Gilad Ben-Nun and Rana Taha have been seeking to implement trust and confidence-building measures in the Israeli-Palestinian context. The Institute and the Project are cooperating to co-host a series of research meetings to support the work.

47. In June 2003, UNIDIR and the Geneva Foundation held a workshop with Dan Bar-On of Ben-Gurion University and the Peace Research Institute in the Middle East. The meeting on confidence-building, identity and bottom-up processes: a pragmatic and psychosocial approach to Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation brought together United Nations agencies, medical practitioners, psychiatrists and conflict-prevention researchers to discuss the process of reconciliation.

48. In 2002, the League of Arab States and UNIDIR began a collaborative research and training programme. Wa'el al Assad, the Director of the newly formed Department for Disarmament in the League in Cairo, worked at UNIDIR for the period June-July. Mr. Al Assad researched and wrote a paper on the issue of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, attended the Conference on Disarmament and interacted with the diplomatic and research community at Geneva. In February 2003, UNIDIR and the League of Arab States held a successful workshop in Cairo concerning a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. A publication from that meeting in English and Arabic is in preparation.

49. Later in 2003, UNIDIR plans to hold a follow-up meeting in Geneva with key experts concerning a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. Experts from throughout the region will be invited to participate in the hope of taking the issue one step further.

C. Human security and disarmament

50. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research is involved in academic and policy discussions on the topic of human security. The joint work by the Institute and the Department for Disarmament Affairs on disarmament as humanitarian action has been viewed as an important contribution to the current thinking on new approaches to security, and the Institute's work on small arms, landmines and health security has made a significant contribution to the field.

1. Small arms in West Africa

51. Small arms and light weapons are the cause of death for millions of people in violent conflicts in every part of the world. For many years, UNIDIR has focused on the issue of small arms.

52. A project to support the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States small arms moratorium by stimulating intellectual debates on national security policies and the control of small arms in a selection of West African States began late in 1998. The fundamental thinking behind the project is that for the fight against small arms to be effective and sustainable in a violence-torn region like West Africa, the participation of civil society is a necessary condition. Thus the project is rooted in civil society in West Africa. Along with a range of local non-governmental

organizations in Sierra Leone and Liberia, UNIDIR has initiated and is assisting in research, debate and discussion on the notions of security and the role that preventing the spread of small arms could play in national and regional security.

55. The Director of the West African project, Anatole Ayissi, published Fighting against Small Arms and Light Weapons Proliferation in West Africa: Handbook for the Training of Armed and Security Forces (editor, with Ibrahima Sall, Director of the Programme for Coordination and Assistance on Security and Development), UNIDIR, July 2003; "La lutte contre le drame des enfants soldats : le Conseil de sécurité contre le terrorisme à venir" (Combating the tragedy of child soldiers: the Security Council and the prevention of future terrorism), in Actualité et Droit International, July 2003, Nanterre, France (with Catherine Maia, Université de Bourgogne, Dijon, France); "Guerre en République Démocratique du Congo : une Afrique en miniature, l'Afrique en devenir?" (War in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Africa in the making?), in La Tribune de Genève, 22 May 2003; "Ordre militaire et désordres politiques en Afrique : la fin des illusions" (Armed forces and political anarchy in Africa: the end of illusions), in Le Monde Diplomatique, Paris, January 2003; "Droits et misères de l'enfant en Afrique" (The rights and misery of children in Africa), in Etudes, Paris, October 2002; "Protecting children in armed conflicts: from commitment to compliance", in *Disarmament Forum*, 2002.

2. Weapons destruction and stockpile management in South Africa

54. In 1998 the Government of South Africa decided to destroy its surplus stockpile of small arms and light weapons. With the financial support of the Government of Norway, the South African National Defence Force has, since August 2000, destroyed over 260,000 weapons and the South African Police Service, 75,000 weapons. South Africa also assisted the Government of Lesotho in destroying over 4,200 weapons. In addition, the Government put in place a comprehensive stockpile management programme, thus ensuring that weapons were tracked, surplus weapons destroyed and the likelihood of weapons being diverted to national and regional illicit markets reduced. UNIDIR and the Small Arms Survey jointly conducted a study of the experience of South Africa. Two publications emerged from the research: the first, *Destroying Surplus Weapons: An Assessment of Experience in South Africa and Lesotho* by Sarah Meek and Noel Stott, is an evaluation of the programme and was presented at the First Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York in July 2003. The second will be a set of guidelines for stockpile management.

3. Weapons for development

55. Increasingly, the international community is turning to weapons collection programmes to dispose of the large surpluses of small arms that remain following a conflict. UNIDIR has begun a detailed analysis of selected weapons collection programmes in order to help policy makers, donor countries, the specialized agencies and international non-governmental organizations to devise better strategies to collect weapons from civilians and former combatants. Using participatory monitoring and evaluation techniques, UNIDIR has begun to identify the criteria for success for weapons collection, analyse and detail the characteristics of the best incentive schemes to collect the weapons, and attempt to identify the best

practices in collection methods, collecting locations and storage facilities to be used. The project is taking place over a period of two years, beginning in 2002 and ending in 2004, and will produce useable material throughout the period. The first field study took place in early 2003 in Mali. The next field trips will be to Albania and Cambodia. The first reports from the project were drafted and presented at the First Biennial Meeting of States in July 2003.

4. Tracing and marking of small arms and light weapons

56. In 2002, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the Small Arms Survey began a joint study on the scope and implications of a tracing mechanism for small arms and light weapons. Technical authors were commissioned to write five papers and publish them in English and French in 2003. The papers were presented to the Group of Governmental Experts on Tracing Small Arms and Light Weapons.

5. Geneva Forum meetings on small arms

57. The Geneva Forum is a collaborative programme started in 1998 between UNIDIR, the Quaker United Nations Office and the Geneva Graduate Institute of International Studies. Part of the Forum's work is the convening of a series of discussions in Geneva on controlling the spread of small arms.

58. During the biennium, the Geneva Forum held a number of meetings on small arms and light weapons (see para. 75), including seven meetings of the Geneva process, a discussion forum on the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

59. In addition, Valerie Yankey collected information from States, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations and worked with the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) to collect information from the non-governmental organization networks. Elli Kytomaki and the Survey put the information into a database that is now online and accessible on the UNIDIR web site.

6. Capacity-building for responding to the Programme of Action

60. In partnership with the Department for Disarmament Affairs and UNIDIR, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is carrying out a project to develop capacity in relevant countries to assist them in their reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. UNIDIR will host a research meeting to assist capacity-building. By July 2003, over 30 countries had been contacted, and different levels of assistance were requested. Analysis of the results and the proposed follow-on work will be discussed at a meeting in September 2003.

7. Landmines

61. As part of the costs of disarmament project, UNIDIR carried out a pilot project on participatory evaluation of the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel

Mines and on Their Destruction, commonly known as the Mine Ban Convention. The project uses the techniques of participatory monitoring and evaluation. The project produced the report, *Participatory Monitoring of Humanitarian Mine Action: Giving Voice to Citizens of Nicaragua, Mozambique and Cambodia*, by Susan Willett (ed.).

8. Health and security

62. The connections between security and health are increasingly of interest in the disarmament and security debate. UNIDIR is cooperating with the World Health Organization, other United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations on the effects of and issues pertaining to interpersonal violence and the spread of weapons. In November 2002, UNIDIR, the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue held a meeting on disarmament, health and humanitarian action: putting people first. UNIDIR has also been collaborating with the University of Liverpool on the long-term effects of the use of chemical weapons on civilians as part of a programme to assist the Kurdish people of Iraq and others who were exposed to a cocktail of agents in 1988. New work following the significant changes in Iraq since April 2003 will now make a critical difference in the depth and range of research that can be carried out in the field.

9. Children and security

63. The third issue of *Disarmament Forum* in 2002 was dedicated to children and security. The contents included "Special comment" by Olara A. Otunnu; "Protecting children in armed conflict: from commitment to compliance" by Anatole Ayissi; "Child soldiers, displacement and human security" by Lisa Alfredson; "Juvenile justice, counter-terrorism and children" by Rachel Brett; "The impact of conflict on children — the role of small arms" by Julia Freedson; and "Education for children during armed conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction" by Isabelle Roger.

V. Networking

64. One of the Institute's main functions is to cooperate actively with specialized agencies, organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and with other organizations active in the field of disarmament. UNIDIR has a number of formal and informal programmes and working arrangements with a wide selection of other organizations.

A. Electronic networking

65. In cooperation with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Lima, the International Security Network and the University of Pittsburgh in the United States of America, UNIDIR has begun a collaborative project to establish a database on researchers and institutes around the world on small arms and light weapons and other security issues.

66. The Institute's new web site was launched late in 2002. Since that time, the web site has had an average number of 490,000 hits per month, and, of those, 6,400 per month are first-time users.

67. The web site now has a new networking feature, "Roundtable", which comprises two parts, *e-di@logue* and *for comment* (see also para. 31). *E-di@logue* is a discussion forum in which short pieces are put up for wider discussion. *For comment* provides a way for UNIDIR authors to obtain comments on draft papers before they are published and to get new ideas out to a more international audience.

B. *Disarmament Forum*

68. UNIDIR publishes a bilingual quarterly journal, *Disarmament Forum*. Each issue has a theme related to security and disarmament. The journal includes papers by experts focusing on the theme and shorter articles on other subjects. Summaries of the Institute's current research projects and recent publications are contained within each issue. Other institutes are encouraged to inform UNIDIR of their activities for inclusion. Recent topics include: nuclear terrorism, security in space, the Chemical Weapons Convention Review Conference and children and security. Forthcoming issues will highlight development and disarmament and gender issues in disarmament and include a special fifth anniversary issue.

C. Education for disarmament

69. The Group of Governmental Experts on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education submitted its report to the Secretary-General and to the General Assembly in October 2002. UNIDIR attended the expert group meetings as a participating United Nations agency and has now substantially increased its work on disarmament education.

70. From 28 April to 8 May 2003, UNIDIR sponsored a public exhibit at the Palais des Nations about the life of Linus Pauling, a scientist and nuclear abolitionist. The exhibition was co-organized with Oregon State University, the Linus Pauling family, Soka Gakkai International, CERN and the University of Geneva.

D. Conferences, seminars and discussion meetings

71. UNIDIR holds a range of different types of research meetings, both in Geneva and in different regions around the world. The meetings are held with the dual purpose of examining issues of security, arms control and disarmament and of fostering cooperation with and among research institutes in the areas concerned.

72. Through its electronic forum, *e-di@logue*, UNIDIR provides an opportunity for research institutes and national and international organizations working in the area of disarmament and international security to become more familiar with one another. The forum can be accessed through the UNIDIR web site.

73. UNIDIR has substantially increased its outreach to the media. It has held several press conferences, often in cooperation with other organizations, to inform

the press of the current negotiations in Geneva and of new research that has been published.

74. The Geneva Forum is the regular venue for information and informal discussion among the diplomatic and research communities in Geneva. The Geneva Forum brings together the three main sectors in Geneva — disarmament, human rights and humanitarian action — to discuss mutual interests in security and disarmament issues and further expand the thinking in those communities.

75. Recent meetings held under the auspices of the Geneva Forum included the following:

- Small arms Programme of Action implementation: seven meetings of the Geneva process, 2002-2003
- The United Nations Programme of Action on small arms: how much progress have we made? Seminar with IANSA and Biting the Bullet Project, June 2003
- Pakistan's foreign policy since 9/11, Riaz H. Khokhar, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, May 2003
- Rights versus charity: landmine survivors and the movement to create a human rights convention for persons with disabilities, seminar with Landmine Survivors Network, May 2003
- The nuclear issue post-Iraq, Joseph Rotblat, President Emeritus, Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs; Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 1995 and recipient of the Linus Pauling Prize, May 2003
- Small arms in the Pacific, seminar with Harvard School of Public Health and University of British Columbia, April 2003
- The question of the trade, carrying and use of small arms and light weapons in the context of human rights and humanitarian norms, seminar with the Human Rights Programme, Institute for Global Studies at the University of Minnesota, March 2003
- The role of International Organizations at the First Biennial Meeting of States to Consider Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, February 2003
- Sixth Consultation with United Nations Agencies and intergovernmental organizations on small arms-related work, January 2003
- Indian foreign policy: challenges and prospects, Kanwal Sibal, Foreign Secretary of India, January 2003
- Making global public policy: the case of small arms and light weapons, seminar with Monterey Institute of International Studies, December 2002
- Press breakfast to launch the Bioweapons Prevention Project, November 2002
- Strengthening implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention: The Fifth Review Conference and beyond, residential workshop, September 2002

- The Mine Ban Convention and non-State actors: a case study of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, seminar with Regional Centre for Strategic Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka, August 2002
- The future of biological disarmament, seminar with London School of Economics and Political Science, July 2002

E. Collaboration with other institutions

76. UNIDIR has continued to increase the numbers of collaborating institutes for research projects and meetings. The International Security Forum took place in November 2002 in Zurich. UNIDIR participated fully and held a workshop on the work of UNIDIR at the Forum. As part of its contribution to the Forum, the Government of Switzerland is funding "Clusters of Competence" discussion groups in Switzerland. UNIDIR is an active member of the arms control cluster and participates in regular meetings on specific aspects of conflict and arms control.

77. As part of an attempt to improve the functioning of the United Nations system, there is increased cooperation among the organs of the United Nations. UNIDIR has increased its cooperation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs through the joint project on disarmament as humanitarian action, through the involvement of UNIDIR personnel with the various studies by groups of governmental experts and through the substantive support UNIDIR can provide. UNIDIR continues to be a member of the Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism, an initiative of the Department.

78. UNIDIR is also continuing its collaboration with UNDP on small arms and development issues and is working closely with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa. UNIDIR is working with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean on a database project.

79. UNIDIR is cooperating in a project initiated and run by UNDP on capacity-building for reporting on the implementation of the Programme of Action on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (see para. 60).

80. UNIDIR has worked with a number of other bodies within the United Nations system. The Institute aims to support work towards peace and international security throughout the United Nations and is particularly interested in linking peace, security, disarmament, human rights and development together. UNIDIR is participating in a series of meetings, the Geneva research and policy dialogue, held by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva to increase cooperation between United Nations research bodies and outside research institutes. As a result of such meetings, UNIDIR has recently increased its collaborative work with other United Nations research organizations. In November 2002, the third Geneva Research and Policy Dialogue was held under the joint invitation of the United Nations Office at Geneva and the United Nations University. Research collaboration between the organizations has been fostered as a result of that series of meetings.

F. Fellowship and internship programme

81. Under the UNIDIR fellowship programme, four visiting research fellows from a single region are invited to Geneva for a period of six months. The researchers work collectively on a single research paper, focusing on a particularly difficult question of regional security. The research paper then feeds into policy debates on the security of their region. The aims of the visiting fellows programme are to provide training for researchers from developing States; to allow them to interact with each other and with researchers from developed States, the United Nations Secretariat, delegations and non-governmental institutes; and to increase the quality of the Institute's work, thereby enhancing the quality of the Institute's information that goes to Governments and institutes.

82. UNIDIR also hosted visiting fellows from the League of Arab States and from Canada, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Finland and Slovenia.

83. The Institute's increasingly competitive internship programme brings young research interns from all over the world to work at UNIDIR for short periods. During the period 2002-2003, UNIDIR hosted 35 interns from 18 countries. For the most part graduate students, of whom many are on scholarships, interns are assigned to a research unit as assistants. UNIDIR has streamlined its internship programme and has an internship coordinator so that the needs of students and the Institute are better matched. Funding for internships is being sought so that UNIDIR can offer more places to young people without financial resources.

84. UNIDIR has begun partnerships with several universities for internships. UNIDIR also hosts one Canadian junior professional consultant each year and is negotiating to host another from a developing country in partnership with an international organization. With regard to the internships, most of the partnerships are based on agreements that recognize UNIDIR as a legitimate provider of internships for university students. That means that students who are accepted at UNIDIR can obtain university credits for their internship or that their internship can otherwise be counted as part of the university requirements for a degree. Some students can benefit from an internship to work towards their Bachelor's or License degree, and others are required to fulfil an internship requirement for their graduate Master's degree. Some universities provide full or partial financial support for the students whom they send to UNIDIR. Twelve universities are currently partnering with UNIDIR.

VI. Publications

85. UNIDIR is planning a large number of publications over the coming 18 months. Those include the quarterly journal, *Disarmament Forum*, and a number of books and research reports.

86. Between July 2002 and July 2003, UNIDIR published a number of books and reports. For details, please visit the UNIDIR web site at http://www.unidir.ch/html/en/publications.php.

VII. Conclusions and observations

87. **As described in the present report, during the past year the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research has pursued an ambitious research programme on peace and security issues and has stimulated valuable debate on disarmament issues in Geneva and beyond. Furthermore, the Institute has greatly expanded its communication, outreach and education activities.**

88. **The Director values the continued and increasing support of Member States and organizations in ensuring the ability of the Institute to fulfil its mandate and sustain its activities.**

Annex I

Income and expenditure for 2001 and 2002 and estimates for 2003 and 2004

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Items	*2001*	*2002*	*2003 (Estimates)*	*2004 (Estimates)*
A. Funds available at the beginning of the year	850.6	1 011.4[a]	1 441.5[c]	915.6[d]
B. Income:				
– Voluntary contributions and public donations	880.1	1 426.6	607.2	514.8
– Subvention from the United Nations regular budget	213.0	219.5	227.6	227.6
– Other interorganizational contributions	58.0	1.1	–	–
– Interest income	50.9	55.7	40.0	20.0
– Miscellaneous income	1.6	1.4	–	–
Total income	**1 203.7**	**1 704.3**	**874.8**	**762.4**
C. Prior period adjustments	–	6.5[b]	–	–
D. Prior period obligations	–	47.5	–	–
E. Total funds available	2 054.3	2 769.7	2 316.3	1 678.0
F. Expenditure	1 042.9	1 328.0	1 400.7	1 271.8
G. Other accounts payable	–	0.2	–	–
H. Fund balance at the end of the year	1 011.4[a]	1 441.5[c]	915.6[d]	406.2[e]

[a] Includes $124,500 required as operating cash reserve for 2001.
[b] Includes $4,100 representing the contribution from New Zealand for 2001, which was credited to UNIDIR in 2002, and an adjustment of the programme support cost for 2001 in the amount of $2,373.
[c] Includes $166,000 required as operating cash reserve for 2002.
[d] Includes $167,600 required as operating cash reserve for 2003.
[e] Includes $149,200 required as operating cash reserve for 2004.

Annex II

Resource requirements

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Resource requirements	*2001* *(1)*	*2002* *(2)*	*2003[a]* *(Estimates)* *(3)*	*2004[a]* *(Estimates)* *(4)*	*Increase/ decrease* *(4-3)*
A. Direct programme and administrative costs					
– Salaries and related staff costs	481.8[b]	468.7	518.4	518.4	–
– Temporary assistance for meetings	1.7	0.2	1.0	1.0	–
– Consultants' fees and travel	31.1	26.2	60.0	20.0	(40.0)
– Ad hoc expert groups	23.5	39.0	30.0	44.2	14.2
– Personal service contract	344.7	564.6	610.4	553.5	(56.9)
– Official travel of staff	75.3	54.3	90.0	50.0	(40.0)
– External printing	0.7	–	–	–	–
– Language training	–	–	1.0	1.0	–
– Other specialized training	7.2	1.1	5.0	5.0	–
– Other contractual services	–	–	2.5	2.5	–
– Hospitality	4.0	2.6	4.0	4.0	–
– Rental of conference room	–	–	2.0	1.0	–
– Rental of conference service equipment	–	0.1	1.0	1.0	–
– Rental of office equipment	2.3	–	–	–	–
– Bank charges	1.0	0.4	–	–	–
– Other miscellaneous services	–	1.3	–	–	–
– Maintenance of office automation equipment	0.2	1.6	2.0	2.0	–
– Paper for internal reproduction	8.6	10.2	10.0	10.0	–
– Subscriptions and standing orders	1.7	2.2	2.5	2.5	–
– Photographic supplies	–	0.2	–	–	–
– Data-processing supplies	0.3	–	–	–	–

Resource requirements	*2001* *(1)*	*2002* *(2)*	*2003[a] (Estimates)* *(3)*	*2004[a] (Estimates)* *(4)*	*Increase/ decrease* *(4-3)*
– Acquisition of office equipment	10.1	14.7	5.0	5.0	–
– Fellowship programme (stipend)	(0.6)	82.6	–	–	–
– Fellowship programme (travel)	9.8	3.7	–	–	–
– Loss on exchange	–	1.6	–	–	–
Total A	**1 003.4**	**1 275.3**	**1 344.8**	**1 222.1**	**(122.7)**
B. Programme support costs (5 per cent of total A, less United Nations subvention)	39.5	52.7	55.9	49.7	(6.2)
Total expenditure (Total A + B)	**1 042.9**	**1 328.0**	**1 400.7**	**1 271.8**	**(128.9)**
C. Operating cash reserve (At least 15 per cent of total A, less United Nations subvention)	124.5	166.0	167.6	149.2	(18.4)
Total (A + B + C)	**1 167.4**	**1 494.0**	**1 568.3**	**1 421.0**	**(147.3)**

[a] Figures may be increased upon the confirmation of current funding proposals.
[b] Includes part of the 2000 salaries and related staff costs.

A. Direct programme and administrative costs for 2004

Upon approval of pending fund-raising applications, the provisions made for programme and administrative costs are minimal and will be increased as funding becomes available.

Salaries and related staff costs: $518,400. The estimated amount is needed to cover the salaries and related staff costs of UNIDIR regular staff. In 2003 the regular staff will consist of the Director (D-2), the Deputy Director (D-1) and two General Service staff. The total estimated requirements under this heading reflect no change over the 2003 revised requirements.

Consultants' fees and travel: $20,000. This provision will be needed to hire the services of a professional designer for the cover pages of the Institute's publications ($10,000) and to fund consultancies for the study on weapons for development: lessons learned from weapons collection programmes. It reflects a negative growth of $40,000 over the 2003 revised requirements.

Ad hoc expert groups: $44,200. The provision reflects an increase of $14,200 over the 2003 budget requirements and will be needed to cover the travel expenses of experts participating in the final expert group meetings for the project on weapons for development: lessons learned from weapons collection programmes.

Personal service contracts: $553,500. This provision will be needed to extend the contracts of the in-house staff working on recurrent projects. In 2000, those contracts were brought into line with regular United Nations contracts, and in 2001 the related posts were graded by the Office of Human Resources Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva. In 2002, the salaries were increased to bring net salaries in line with the related gradings. The estimated requirements reflect a decrease of $56,900 over the 2003 revised requirements, as the weapons for development project should end in September 2004.

Official travel of staff: $50,000. The estimated requirements for travel of staff in 2004 reflect a decrease of $40,000 over the 2003 revised estimates since most of the field travel for the project entitled "Weapons for development: lessons learned from weapons collection programmes", will be undertaken in 2003. Other project-related travel will be added if funds are received for that purpose. The Director and members of the staff receive invitations to conferences and seminars which have to be declined because of the limited travel budget of UNIDIR. However, they also receive a number of invitations where the costs are covered by the host institution: such travel will at times be combined with UNIDIR's missions, thereby reducing costs to the Institute. Travel for fund-raising purposes will as far as possible be combined with travel for other purposes.

Provisions made for items such as **language training, other specialized training, other contractual services, rental of conference room, rental of conference-servicing equipment, maintenance of office automation equipment, paper for internal reproduction, subscriptions and standing orders, and acquisition of office equipment** are identical to the 2003 revised requirements, and provisions will be increased as projects develop.

Fellowship (stipend and travel): No provision has been made as yet for the year 2004, pending the approval of funding proposals. UNIDIR hopes to be able to continue the programme.

B. Programme support costs

A provision of $49,700, representing 5 per cent of the total estimated expenditure less the amount of the United Nations regular budget subvention of $227,600 will be needed for programme support costs in 2004.

C. Operating cash reserve

In compliance with administrative instruction ST/AI/284, an amount of $149,200 representing 15 per cent of the total 2004 estimated expenditure funded from extrabudgetary resources will be kept as operating cash reserve.

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Item 22 of the provisional agenda*
Assistance in mine action

Assistance in mine action

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/159 of 16 December 2002. It focuses on progress achieved in implementing the six strategic goals and related objectives enumerated in the United Nations mine-action strategy for the period 2001-2005 (A/56/448/Add.1).

Progress has been achieved in the following areas:

(a) *Increased information and improved information technology*. Production of information related to mine-action problems; inter-agency assessment missions to mine-affected countries; and enhancement of the web-based information network E-Mine; availability of Information Management System for Mine Action version 3.0 in several mine-affected countries (strategic goal one);

(b) *Improved capacity to respond to emergencies*. Endorsement of the operational framework for rapid response; implementation of a rapid-response plan in Iraq; and provision of emergency mine-action assistance to seven countries (strategic goal two);

(c) *Sustained efforts to build national mine-action capacity*. Efforts to build national and local mine-action capacity in over 30 countries (strategic goal three);

(d) *Significant improvements in quality management*. Strengthened management and oversight of the International Mine Action Standards (strategic goal four);

* A/58/150.

** The need to request and incorporate input from a variety of entities within and outside the United Nations system delayed the finalization of the present report. With regard to future submissions, steps will be taken to ensure that delays are minimized.

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(e) *Successful resource mobilization*. Significantly increased resources made available for mine-action programmes; *Portfolio of Mine-related Projects: 2003* issued to coincide with the launch of consolidated appeals (strategic goal five);

(f) *Increased advocacy in support of relevant legal instruments*. Expert information provided to Member States considering legislation to regulate explosive remnants of war and contributed to efforts of Member States to codify the rights of persons living with disabilities, including landmine survivors (strategic goal six).

The report recommends specific action to enhance the quality of mine-action work by the United Nations.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 57/159 of 16 December 2002, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-eighth session a report on the progress achieved on all relevant issues outlined both in his previous reports to the Assembly on assistance in mine clearance and mine action and in the resolution, including the progress made by the International Committee of the Red Cross and other international and regional organizations as well as national programmes, and on the operation of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action and other mine-action programmes.

II. Action taken in accordance with paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 57/159

2. In paragraph 12 of its resolution 57/159, the General Assembly noted with appreciation the implementation of the United Nations mine-action strategy for the period 2001-2005 (A/56/448/Add.1), and requested the Secretary-General to review it formally by further seeking and taking into account the views of Member States and taking into consideration the impact of the landmine problem on rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, in order to ensure the effectiveness of assistance in mine action by the United Nations.

3. In response to that request, a comprehensive review of the strategy has been completed. An addendum to the present report describes the review process and contains the text of the revised strategy (A/58/260/Add.1).

III. Progress achieved in the implementation of the United Nations mine-action strategy for the period 2001-2005

4. This section describes progress achieved in the implementation of each of the six strategic goals of the United Nations mine-action strategy for the period 2001-2005 during the period under review.

Strategic goal one. Information is produced and made available to all to understand and address mine-action problems.

5. Inter-agency and multisectoral assessment missions were organized to Mauritania and Tunisia to determine the scope and nature of their landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) problems. The missions identified constraints to and opportunities for mine-action initiatives and made recommendations for a comprehensive response. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) took part in a mission to assess the mine situation in Colombia. Following a subsequent request from the Government of Colombia, UNDP is establishing a mine-action capacity-building programme; UNICEF already supports mine-risk education there (objective 1.1).

6. Accessed through the Internet at www.mineaction.org, E-Mine, the electronic mine information network, added more than 800 items in 2002, for a total of 1,700 documents and profiles of mine-action organizations. All project profiles in the *Portfolio of Mine-related Projects: 2003* are available through the site. E-Mine now also offers access to a database on countries' progress in destroying stockpiles of mines. Since August 2002, E-Mine has had 160,000 distinct users, who each visited an average of 14 documents before leaving the site (objective 1.2).

7. UNMAS contracted the Mine Action Information Center of James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA, United States of America, to carry out a pilot project aimed at using E-Mine to provide selected reports from national programmes to the general public and mine-action practitioners. The project relies on a standardized reporting template developed as part of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA). Installations and upgrades of IMSMA version 3.0 are now being completed by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in Afghanistan, Albania, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Serbia and Montenegro (Kosovo) (objective 1.4).

8. Support for research and development of technology for detection, removal and destruction of mines and UXO continued. Activities included two studies undertaken in cooperation with GICHD, one assessing the use of mine-detection dogs in marking and clearance operations, the other involving research into the application of mechanical mine- and UXO-clearance technology. Results will be used in the development of international standards and guidelines for the use of such equipment. (objectives 1.5 and 4.8).

Strategic goal two. Rapid response capability is in place to meet mine-action requirements in emergency situations.

9. The United Nations operational framework for rapid response was put to the test in early 2003 in Iraq. At the request of the United Nations Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, UNMAS deployed a mine-action coordination team, with the participation of UNDP, UNICEF, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the World Food Programme and a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). UNOPS also contracted and deployed operational teams for emergency survey, mine-detection dogs and disposal of explosive ordnance. Landmine and UXO safety briefings were provided to United Nations and other humanitarian personnel prior to their return to Iraq. As at 21 July 2003, donors had contributed over $11 million in 2003 for Iraq through the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. (objective 2.1).

10. Under the rapid response plan, UNOPS made standby arrangements with four mine-action companies and NGOs to deploy emergency response teams at short notice (objective 2.1). In addition, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, in its contingency-planning exercises, is increasingly taking into consideration existing and potential landmine threats. Those exercises include inter-agency country team members who can in turn incorporate landmine issues into their own agencies' contingency plans.

11. The Mine-Action Programme for Afghanistan, comprising 15 national and international NGOs coordinated by the United Nations Mine-Action Centre in Afghanistan, nearly doubled in size, to over 7,200 Afghan personnel, in response to

increased demand for mine action in support of humanitarian, development and reconstruction initiatives. Significant advances were made in quality management, including the revision of standard operating procedures and in information-gathering and analysis through the introduction of IMSMA. A landmine impact survey was begun in 2003 to better identify at-risk populations and enhance national priority-setting and resource allocation. In the 12 months ending 30 June 2003, over 30 square kilometres (sq km) of high-priority mine-affected areas and over 80 sq km of former battlefields were cleared, while over 115 sq km of affected areas were surveyed and mapped. Eighty per cent of all known cluster-bomb strike sites were cleared and the remainder surveyed. Mine-risk education activities reached an estimated 60 per cent of the Afghan population through radio, television and quick-impact programmes. Additional outreach sites were also established in the main refugee camp areas and at major crossing points and resettlement areas. Altogether, over 2.5 million people received safety messages during the period under review, compared with 900,000 the previous year.

12. The Government of Afghanistan has shown significant commitment to mine action, most notably through its accession to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Mine Ban Convention) in September 2002. According to a strategic medium-term plan, developed jointly by the United Nations and the Government and assuming consistent levels of international support, all high-priority areas will be cleared by 2008 and others by 2013. The Government has established a mine-action consultative group mechanism within the framework of the national development budget. All relevant ministries, key donors, the United Nations and implementing NGOs participated, providing a coordination body for future planning and priority-setting. As part of the strategic plan, UNDP is working with the Government to develop a detailed transition plan that will ensure an incremental transfer of responsibility for the coordination of mine action to appropriate government authorities.

13. The Mine-Action Coordination Centre in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been instrumental in the integration of mine-action concerns into the plans and operations of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC), in particular for the eastern part of the country. MONUC contracted a commercial mine-clearance company to carry out technical surveys at Kisangani and Kindu airports and similar operations were conducted in Kisangani-La Forestière and Manono through UNOPS. Since June 2003, the United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre has been coordinating mine-clearance operations in Bunia. The Democratic Republic of the Congo became a State party to the Mine Ban Convention on 2 November 2002. The Centre has assisted the Government in complying with its obligations under the Convention, in particular in completing reports under article 7. The Centre also assisted the Rassemblement congolais pour la Démocratie (RCD-Goma) to destroy its stockpiles of mines in Kisangani.

14. UNMAS continued its programme, executed with UNOPS, in the temporary security zone between Eritrea and Ethiopia and adjacent areas, where the Mine-Action Coordination Centre in the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea has been responsible for coordinating mine-action activities. In response to a July 2002 presidential decree that led to the departure of international mine-action NGOs from Eritrea, the coordination centre refocused its mine-action services in support of

the peacekeeping mission. In a unique development, the mine-action assets of the peacekeeping force were fully integrated with the civilian components of the coordination centre. UNDP is helping develop the technical capacity of the Eritrean Demining Authority to coordinate and manage national mine-action efforts.

15. A significant UXO threat resulted from the brief but violent internal conflict of spring 2001 in some parts of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In cooperation with the national Mine-Action Centre, an UNMAS project, executed with UNOPS, coordinated the delivery of bilateral contributions enabling national authorities to deal with the problem. As at 30 April 2003, 4.7 sq km of land had been cleared, allowing three quarters of the affected villages to be returned to their former inhabitants. The United Nations programme closed at the end of June 2003, leaving a capable national Mine-Action Centre to deal with the residual mine and UXO problem.

16. The role of the Mine-Action Coordination Centre in Lebanon expanded in 2002 as a new Operation Emirates Solidarity project began mine-clearance operations, with funding from the United Arab Emirates. The United Nations, the Lebanese National Demining Office and the Government of the United Arab Emirates contributed staff and financial resources to create the Mine-Action Coordination Centre of Southern Lebanon. Under the project, the Centre contracted two commercial companies to work on tasks prioritized by the National Demining Office. UNOPS contracted a third company to carry out quality assurance. A technical survey, initiated in March 2002 by the NGO Mines Advisory Group, has been providing information that assists with prioritization. The Group is also carrying out a nationwide landmine impact survey, funded by the European Union. As at 11 July 2003, more than 4.2 sq km of land had been cleared and returned to communities and more than 36,000 mines had been destroyed. However, over 1,000 minefields remain along the border between Israel and Lebanon, outside the area covered by Operation Emirates Solidarity. Planning is under way to transfer full responsibility for mine action in southern Lebanon to the National Demining Office. As UNMAS phases out its support in southern Lebanon, UNDP is providing capacity-building support.

17. On 19 April 2003, the Government of the Sudan, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and the United Nations Country Team agreed on a plan for an emergency mine-action programme to support the development of national standards for mine action, document the capacity of national mine-action NGOs and promote the development of a national mine-action body capable of planning and coordinating mine action following a peace agreement. Through UNOPS, UNMAS began implementing assessments and clearance operations in the Nuba Mountains and UNICEF conducted mine-risk education. Some 200,000 square metres have been cleared, resulting in over 16 sq km of suspected land being returned to pre-war use in the Nuba Mountains, enabling hand pumps and water wells to be established and facilitating the return of entire communities. UNICEF and UNMAS assisted the Government with the development of a mine-action strategy in support of the emergency mine-action programme. A tripartite memorandum of understanding was signed by the Government of the Sudan, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and the United Nations on 19 September 2002. Accordingly, mine-action support is provided to the National Mine-Action Office and coordination offices in the Nuba Mountains and in Rumbek. UNDP is developing a capacity-building programme to support national and local efforts to address the mine problem.

18. In Angola, Burundi, Eritrea, Iraq, the Russian Federation (Chechnya) and the northern and southern Sudan, the UNICEF Office of Emergency Programmes deployed members of its "flying team" of experienced mine-action technical consultants to assist in identifying at-risk populations and developing and implementing mine-accident prevention strategies, especially in emergency situations.

19. During the period under review, members of the Survey Working Group, led by the NGO Survey Action Centre and comprising key mine-action NGOs and United Nations entities, developed a common format for gathering emergency assessment data on mine and UXO hazards. The format is being pilot tested in Iraq (objective 2.4).

Strategic goal three. National and local capacities are in place to plan, coordinate and implement mine-action programmes.

20. The primary responsibility for managing mine-action programmes in mine-affected countries lies with the national and local authorities. In many instances, countries call on the United Nations to help them manage their responses to mine and UXO contamination over the long term. Within the United Nations system, UNDP fulfils this critical role. UNDP field- and headquarters-based services assist national authorities in establishing institutional structures to address the mine threat in an integrated and practical way and to create an environment in which mine-action activities are conducted to greatest impact and efficiency. That support is often provided through UNOPS.

21. UNDP coordinates its global mine-action response in post-conflict environments through the Mine Action Team of its Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery. In immediate post-conflict environments, long-term mine-action planning and national capacity-building must begin during the initial stages of emergency response. In countries with peacekeeping operations, such as Afghanistan, Eritrea and Lebanon, UNMAS is implementing emergency mine-action programmes with UNOPS and UNDP is developing national mine-action capacity to ensure an appropriate transfer to national management. In Angola, UNDP is providing technical assistance to the Inter-sectoral Commission on Demining and Humanitarian Assistance, the national coordinating body. UNDP recently established new capacity-building projects in Colombia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan and Tajikistan. In Sri Lanka, UNDP launched the main phase of its capacity-building project, providing technical support to the National Steering Committee for Mine Action and regional mine-action offices.

22. UNDP (in most cases working through UNOPS) helped to strengthen national management and coordination structures and policy-making bodies in Albania, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Lebanon and Somalia. In a number of UNDP-supported countries, the national mine-action programmes have achieved technical and managerial sustainability, though continued financial support is required. In Azerbaijan, UNDP supports the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action to develop management capabilities, including quality assurance capacity and the requisite technical expertise to conduct technical survey and demining operations. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, specific achievements include the enactment of a national demining law; the establishment of a unified, national mine-action

centre; transforming the two entity mine-action centres into two regional offices; a commitment by the Government to support the mine-action programme directly by financing staff salaries; and the development of an eight-year national strategic plan that aims to render the country free from the effects of landmines by 2010. In Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, UNDP has been assisting with the development of national mine-action strategies that are linked to national development and reconstruction plans.

23. The National Demining Institute in Mozambique has taken the lead in coordinating a national response to the mine and UXO problem that is integrated into national development plans. UNDP is also working with the national authorities to transform the accelerated demining programme into a national entity. During the period under review, UNDP provided support to the Government of Ukraine to address its significant stockpile of anti-personnel landmines, including some 6 million PFM-type mines, which are too dangerous and environmentally harmful to destroy by normal methods. UNDP is also assisting the Government with the process of ratification of the Mine Ban Convention. In Yemen, UNDP continues, with the support of UNOPS, to help the Government clear all high-impact communities and address the medical and socio-economic reintegration needs of mine victims. More than 2.5 sq km of land have been released for productive use and 70 per cent of high-impact communities cleared of mines and UXO. UNDP plans to phase out its capacity-building project in Yemen over the next four years.

24. During the period under review, UNDP drafted initial guidelines for transition strategies for United Nations-supported mine-action programmes that support capacity-building efforts at the national and local levels. "Transition" in that context is defined as either the termination of or a substantial reduction in the size and scope of a capacity-building project led by international advisers. The final guidelines, to be issued in 2004, will be used throughout the life cycle of a mine-action capacity-building project (objective 3.2).

25. UNDP seeks to promote cooperation, networking and information sharing among mine-affected countries. Its mine-action staff exchange programme, launched in 2001, provides a means for staff of mine-action programmes to undertake short assignments with other programmes or international mine-action organizations. During the period under review, Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Mozambique, Somalia and Tajikistan were among the countries that participated in the exchange programme (objective 3.7).

26. UNDP national capacity-building efforts are based on its ability to encourage national ownership and sustainability of mine-action programmes. An integral part of that effort is a UNDP programme that trains senior- and mid-level national mine-action staff in effective management practices. During the period under review, UNDP organized one senior-level management course with representatives from 18 mine-affected countries and a series of middle-level management courses with representatives from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon and Yemen.

27. Landmine impact surveys have been completed in Cambodia, Chad, Mozambique, Thailand and Yemen. Surveys are under way or set to begin in Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Somalia and the Sudan. UNMAS provides, through UNOPS, quality assurance monitors to ensure that the process meets international standards and

UNDP helps national authorities develop plans based on priorities identified through the surveys. The United Nations expects to reach its objective of completing 15 surveys by the end of the strategy period (objective 3.3).

28. UNICEF coordinates and implements its mine-action strategy and provides policy advice and programmatic guidance, through its Landmines and Small Arms Team within the Office of Emergency Programmes. The Team also engages "flying team" consultants who can be deployed at short notice for brief periods to assist with national and local capacity-building and emergency response. UNICEF continued to implement and support mine-risk education and other mine-accident prevention activities, advocacy and survivor assistance in 28 countries and areas. When appropriate, UNICEF locates its operations within or offers space in its own premises to other United Nations mine-action entities. UNICEF has assigned its mine-risk education officers to work inside mine-action centres in, for example, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Sudan. In Burundi, Georgia, Guatemala, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Panama, the Russian Federation (Chechnya), the Syrian Arab Republic (Golan Heights) and Viet Nam, UNICEF alone among United Nations entities undertakes mine-action initiatives.

29. UNICEF's mine-action strategy, completed in 2002, outlines the principles, goals and objectives that guide initiatives in areas such as mine-risk education, advocacy, victim assistance capacity-building and its commitment to a rights-based approach to mine action. In Afghanistan, UNICEF supported efforts of the national mine-action team to develop a five-year mine-risk education strategy. In Cambodia, UNICEF worked with national mine-action authorities and relevant ministries to support the development of mine-risk education and victim assistance strategies.

30. In July 2003, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) agreed to develop guidelines for the integration of a gender perspective into mine-action programmes. Consultations with field- and headquarters-based United Nations mine-action staff have begun to define more clearly the methodology for developing and implementing the guidelines (objective 3.8). In February 2003 the IACG-MA principals endorsed a United Nations victim assistance policy entitled "The scope of action of mine-action centres and organizations in victim assistance" (objective 3.9).

Strategic goal four. Mine-action operations are implemented in a safe and cost-effective manner.

31. The principals of IACG-MA endorsed a new series of International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) on the use of mine-detecting dogs in December 2002. In March 2003, an updated second edition of IMAS was published and a new CD-ROM was distributed. At meetings of the IMAS Review Board in January 2003 and the Steering Group in May 2003, participants called for a more structured process to review the standards, as well as an assessment to determine the extent to which IMAS are incorporated into national standards and to identify provisions that may be causing difficulties in the field. On 15 July 2003, the IACG-MA principals endorsed the revised terms of reference for the Steering Group and Review Board and the amended procedure for the production of new IMAS. UNICEF developed draft mine-risk education and related standards and GICHD continues to work on the production of a standard to guide mechanical assistance in mine action

(objectives 4.1 and 4.2). In Croatia, one of the primary efforts of UNDP has been assisting the Croatian Mine-Action Centre to develop national standards within the IMAS framework. UNDP has been undertaking similar initiatives in Eritrea, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Yemen, while UNICEF has also been involved in the processes, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Eritrea and Ethiopia and Sri Lanka (objective 4.3).

32. After the release of the IMAS, UNOPS modified all of its mine-action contract models and statements of work to ensure that contractors engaged by the United Nations work in accordance with the IMAS and relevant national standards. UNOPS has provided donors, through the Mine-Action Support Group, a list of recommended contract clauses for use in bilateral agreements between donors and mine-action organizations. The clauses require contractors to work in accordance with IMAS and under the coordination of the mine-action centre, whether it is managed nationally or by the United Nations, to ensure safety, promote efficiency and prevent duplication (objective 4.6).

33. To share experience, identify and disseminate lessons learned and promote best practices in mine-risk education, UNICEF continued to work with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines to convene the Mine-Risk Education Working Group, which is a forum for practitioners. The Working Group also participated in the development of the mine-risk education component of IMAS. UNICEF and the Centers for Disease Control of the United States began to develop a training programme to relate public health tools to mine action and thus better identify the incidence and prevalence of mine and UXO accidents and more effectively target resources. UNICEF commissioned a study of lessons learned in its global mine-action activities for the period 1993-2003 (objectives 4.2 and 4.5).

34. UNDP conducted an external evaluation of the mine-action programme of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and external evaluations in Eritrea, Ethiopia and Lebanon are planned for 2003-2004 (objective 4.4). UNMAS has entered into partnership with James Madison University in the United States (see para. 7 above) to expand and update a database containing examples of best practices and lessons learned in mine action that will be made available through E-Mine (at www.mineaction.org) in December 2003 (objective 4.5).

35. An integral part of establishing an effective national mine-action programme is to develop a legal framework within which to conduct mine-action operations. In its support role to national Governments, UNDP, in partnership with GICHD, has undertaken a study to examine the legal foundations of national mine-action programmes. The study assembled examples of mine-action legislation enacted by Governments, collected case studies, identified common themes and reviewed national structures in mine-affected countries. In 2004, UNDP plans to share the results of the study with mine-affected countries through a series of regional workshops (objective 4.7).

Strategic goal five. Adequate resources for mine action are mobilized and their use is effectively coordinated.

36. Belgium and Germany chaired the Mine-Action Support Group in 2002 and 2003 respectively. The Support Group facilitated regular discussions between the United Nations and donors, for whom a visit to mine-action programmes in the

Balkans was organized for donor representatives in March 2003 (objectives 5.1 and 5.3). The States parties to the Mine Ban Convention have established the Geneva-based Resource Mobilization Contact Group, which received briefings in May from the United Nations and the World Bank on sources of multilateral funding.

37. IACG-MA is the main mine-action coordinating body in the United Nations. At the working level, it meets monthly under the chairmanship of the director of UNMAS. At the principals' level, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations chairs meetings as required. In December 2002, IACG-MA, at the principals level, endorsed the operational framework for rapid response as a working document and discussed the relationships among United Nations entities and NGOs in the field. In July 2003, IACG-MA, also at the principals' level, endorsed the revised United Nations mine-action strategy for the period 2001-2005 and welcomed the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues as new members. At the working level, IACG-MA reviewed the situation in mine-affected countries, heard reports on assessment missions, monitored progress in the implementation of the United Nations mine-action strategy for the period 2001-2005 and discussed the new victim assistance policy, the Mine-Action Guidelines for Ceasefire and Peace Agreements and the issue of gender in mine action. The Steering Committee on Mine Action comprises the members of IACG-MA, representatives of GICHD, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, the International Committee of the Red Cross and a number of other NGOs. The Steering Committee met in September 2002 and February and May 2003 and discussed mine and UXO situations in Eritrea, the Russian Federation (Chechnya), the Sudan and Viet Nam. Among other things, the group formed an ad hoc task force to address the relationship between the United Nations and mine-action NGOs in the field (objective 5.2).

38. UNMAS manages a mine-action investments database, which tracks donor contributions to projects worldwide. Donors update their own information on the database. As at May 2003, 10 donors had already posted information on the database. A total of 16 posted data in 2002 (objective 5.5).

39. The *Portfolio of Mine-related Projects: 2003* is a tool for resource mobilization that is produced by the United Nations mine-action entities in both print and web-based formats. The portfolio includes United Nations and NGO mine-action projects. In November 2002, for the first time, the portfolio was launched at the same time as the United Nations inter-agency consolidated appeals. The United Nations mine-action entities in collaboration with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, are using the preparation of the portfolio for 2004 as an opportunity to foster coordination and integrated planning (objective 5.4).

40. UNDP mobilized over $67 million for mine action during the reporting period, with more than $15 million channelled through its newly established Thematic Trust Fund for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, which enables donors to provide contributions in support of thematic priorities, including mine action. The Trust Fund is an important vehicle for channelling contributions to UNDP mine-action projects in the field and at headquarters. UNDP expects to receive an increasing share of non-core financial contributions through the Trust Fund in the coming year.

41. One of UNDP's most successful public-private partnerships, Adopt-A-Minefield, executed by UNOPS, raised over $3 million in the past year, raising the total since 1998 to $8 million. The programme raises funds for United Nations

mine-clearance operations in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Iraq, Mozambique and Viet Nam from tens of thousands of supporters globally, including children, community and corporate leaders, educators and celebrities.

42. In March 2003, UNMAS convened the Sixth International Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and Advisors, sponsored by GICHD. Participants discussed strategic planning; priority setting; integration of mine action into peacekeeping, humanitarian and development programming and budgeting; emerging policy issues; recent developments in mine-action tools and technology; and field coordination among Governments, the United Nations and NGOs. On the final day, 17 representatives of 11 major donor countries joined the programme directors and United Nations staff to discuss field-based resource coordination; integration of mine action into development programmes and budgets; donor funding strategies; and programme-funding needs (objective 5.7).

43. A number of regional organizations, including the Southern African Development Community, have taken initiatives to promote coordination of mine action at the regional level. Meanwhile, the Organization of American States has continued its programmes of support to mine action in Latin America. A number of national directors of programmes in the Balkans have also come together to form the South-East Europe Mine Action Centre. The United Nations encourages and supports such cooperation.

Strategic goal six. International instruments that address the mine/unexploded ordnance problem are universalized.

44. Significant progress has been made towards achieving a world free from the threat of landmines. The number of new mine victims is decreasing, stockpiles are being destroyed, mined areas are being cleared and the production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines have all but stopped. Eight countries have joined the Mine Ban Convention since 2002, bringing the total number of States parties to 134. Representatives of UNMAS, the Department of Disarmament Affairs, UNICEF and UNDP have made presentations to promote a better understanding of the Convention at meetings in Angers (France), Brazzaville, Brussels, Dubrovnik (Croatia), Lima, Moscow and Yerevan and conferences in Kobe (Japan) and London (objective 6.1).

45. UNDP assisted the Governments of Chad, Uganda and Ukraine to destroy their stockpiles of anti-personnel landmines in compliance with their obligations under the Mine Ban Convention.

46. In its resolution 56/219 of 21 December 2001, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to study ways and means of increasing public awareness of the impact of the problem of landmines and other unexploded ordnance on affected countries and to present options to that effect. IACG-MA is preparing a United Nations mine-action advocacy strategy that will address preventive and remedial aspects. An interactive CD-ROM, entitled "Landmines: The World Takes Action", was launched at the Fourth Meeting of States Parties, held in Geneva in September 2002, and subsequently distributed to a broad audience. UNMAS also compiled a CD-ROM of all official mine-related United Nations documents for the period 1993-2002 and distributed it at the May 2003 session of the standing committees of the Mine Ban Convention.

47. UNMAS continued to provide substantive support to the Group of Governmental Experts of States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions and Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, the meetings of which were all attended by mine-action field experts. At a meeting in March 2003, UNMAS made a presentation on the impact of mines other than anti-personnel mines on clearance operations in Afghanistan. In addition, at the request of the Coordinator of the Group of Governmental Experts, UNMAS, in collaboration with GICHD and the Swiss Army, organized a demonstration of demining techniques to illustrate the challenges involved in mine detection. UNMAS also prepared a paper on the role of the United Nations in providing assistance to countries affected by explosive remnants of war. It highlights the funding mechanisms available through the United Nations system for dealing with explosive remnants of war, the United Nations role in assisting victims and the relevant databases available in E-Mine.

48. The Secretary-General and senior officials continued to stress to heads of State and Government the importance of adhering to and implementing the Mine Ban Convention and Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, at the fourth anniversary of the entry into force of the Mine Ban Convention, briefed the press on the status of its implementation. UNDP resident representatives also promoted the legal instruments in regular discussions with host Governments (objective 6.4). UNICEF developed a guide on the rights of children in the framework of the Mine Ban Convention and an advocacy kit to promote its universalization (objectives 6.1 and 6.2).

49. United Nations entities have reported regularly to the Standing Committees of the Mine Ban Convention and participated in contact groups on universalization, on article 7 of the Convention and on resource mobilization. At the request of the co-chairs of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance, UNMAS supported a consultative process to identify priority areas for work in the period leading up to the review conference.

50. In June 2003, UNMAS and UNICEF participated in the second session of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. The goal was to support the development of instruments of international law. UNMAS is working with United Nations and NGO partners to ensure that the rights of landmine survivors are on the agenda of the Ad Hoc Committee and are addressed in the text of an eventual convention.

51. Through its presence in some 80 countries, the International Committee of the Red Cross focuses its mine-related efforts on victim assistance, education and advocacy. It engages in humanitarian diplomacy with national and regional authorities with a view to encouraging States to adhere to and fully implement the Mine Ban Convention. It also assists States in the development of national implementing legislation and raises awareness about mine ban norms in disseminating humanitarian law to armed forces and armed groups.

52. UNMAS has supported the work of Geneva Call to encourage armed non-State actors to uphold the principles of the Mine Ban Convention. Some non-State actors use and produce anti-personnel mines and are in de facto control of mine-affected areas. UNMAS also supported activities of the International Campaign to Ban

Landmines by funding the global meeting of Landmine Monitor researchers in April 2003.

IV. Financial aspects

53. In his report of 24 September 2002 on assistance in mine action (A/57/430), the Secretary-General indicated that UNMAS was on sounder footing. More specifically, he reported that two additional posts for UNMAS had been established under an account to support peacekeeping operations (a planning officer at the P-4 level and a programme officer at the P-3 level). Recruitment to those posts has been completed.

54. In keeping with his conviction that mine action is a core responsibility of the United Nations, the Secretary-General included two posts in UNMAS to be funded from the regular budget for the biennium 2004-2005. Those posts, a policy coordination officer at the P-4 level and a threat-monitoring officer at the P-3 level, are responsible for the collection and analysis of information on the mine situation around the world.

55. With those arrangements in place and the continued generous support of donors to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, the Secretary-General is confident that UNMAS will be in a position to carry out its programme of work in the immediate future.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

56. The formal review in early 2003 of the United Nations mine-action strategy for the period 2001-2005 confirmed several important observations. Firstly, the strategy has provided valuable direction and guidance for all United Nations entities involved in its implementation and has fostered coordination and accountability across the mine-action community. Secondly, the strategy review process revealed a considerable degree of consensus among United Nations partners on a set of fundamental principles that underpin their common endeavours, including the commitment to integrate a development perspective into mine-action planning, to emphasize the role of mine-affected communities when determining mine-action priorities and to address gender concerns in the design, implementation and evaluation of mine-action programmes. Thirdly, the review offered an opportunity to review, modify and clarify a number of strategic objectives in the light of practical experience.

57. Mine action has been more systematically integrated into humanitarian and development planning and operations over the past year, at the national and also the international levels. The presence of mines and UXO often poses serious constraints to development. Although donors continue to fund mine action primarily from humanitarian or emergency budget lines, there is increasing recognition of the importance of supporting mine action from development and reconstruction budgets as well. This is particularly important in the area of victim assistance, for example, a long-term concern for which funds are almost always inadequate.

58. In the humanitarian context, it is fully accepted that mine action must form an integral part of the consolidated appeals process. At the country level, United

Nations resident and humanitarian coordinators are including senior mine-action staff in the United Nations country team and taking on responsibility for directing the process of determining mine-action priorities. The newly developed United Nations mine-action rapid response capacity proved essential in Iraq, where the United Nations was able to deploy a mine action coordination team and important operational assets for emergency assessments and disposal of explosive ordnance with unprecedented speed.

59. Mine-action requirements are considered increasingly at the early stages of planning of peacekeeping missions and are included in mission structures as appropriate. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, at its fifty-seventh session, encouraged troop-contributing countries to carry out demining operations in conformity with IMAS, to make use of IMSMA and to consider participating in the framework of rapid response in appropriate situations (A/57/767, paras. 143-147).

60. The following recommendations and proposals for action derive from those conclusions:

(a) The Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action should continuously monitor implementation of the United Nations mine-action strategy for the period 2001-2005 and report annually to the General Assembly on progress made and challenges encountered;

(b) A United Nations mine-action strategy for the period 2005-2009 should be developed in 2005;

(c) In countries emerging from conflict, the Government, together with donors, should carry out assessments of the impact of mines and UXO on recovery and development at the earliest practical moment;

(d) In countries where mines and UXO have constrained development activities, donors should support mine action from development budgets as well as from dedicated humanitarian budget lines;

(e) Governments and United Nations entities should consider requesting UNMAS to activate the mine-action rapid response plan in humanitarian emergencies or when political developments allow a mine and UXO problem to be tackled for the first time;

(f) Countries contributing troops to peacekeeping operations with expertise in explosive ordnance disposal and mine clearance should ensure that operations are conducted in accordance with IMAS.

61. The Secretary-General warmly welcomes the evident shift in the perception of mine action from an isolated and specialist task to an integral part of mainstream humanitarian, development and peacekeeping operations and he encourages all stakeholders — including mine-affected States, donor Governments and organizations, as well as civil society — to continue to work together to eliminate the threat that landmines pose to the daily life and future aspirations of communities around the world.